iPod Nano 3rd Generation Teardown

Step 1 -

- There it is, in the same style box as the last Nano, but quite a bit shorter and wider.

Step 2

- Here's what you'll find in the box:
  - A manual (even smaller than the iPod).
  - The usual, much-maligned headphones.
  - A USB to iPod cable.
  - A dock *insert*.
  - A brand new iPod.

Step 3

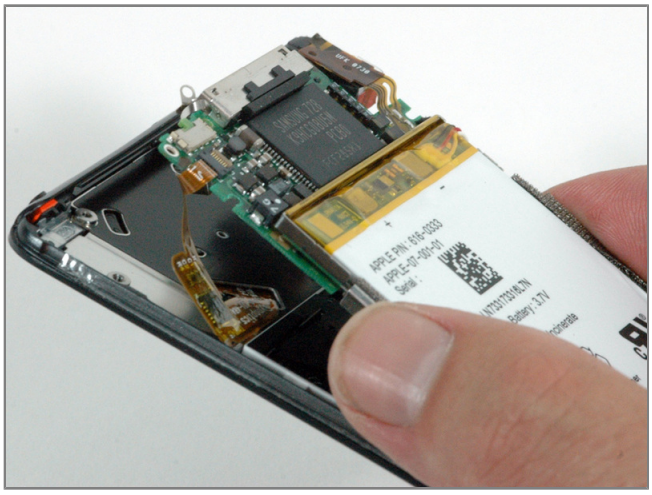
- The growing iPod Nano family.
- Although the new Nano is shorter and wider than its older siblings, it has approximately the same area (36 square centimeters).

Step 4

- Apple appears to be going in circles. Anodized aluminum, shiny, anodized, shiny...
- But of course, it's what's inside that counts.

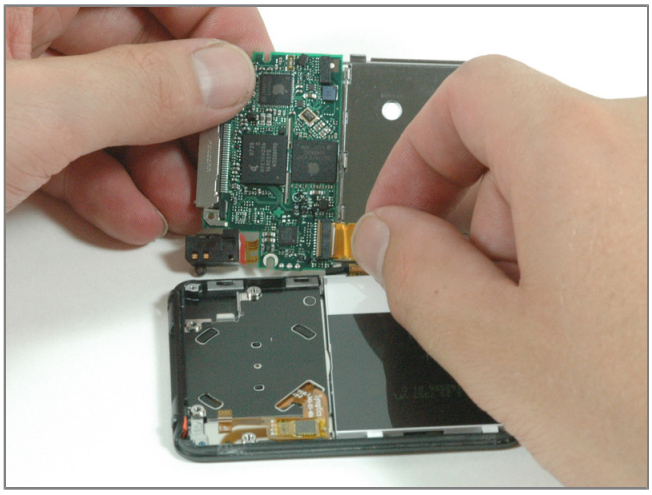
Step 5

- And here's our first look inside this newest Nano.
- The case has eight locking tabs:
  - Three on the left, evenly spaced.
  - Three on top.
  - Two on the right, near the bottom, to make room for the display circuitry at the upper right.



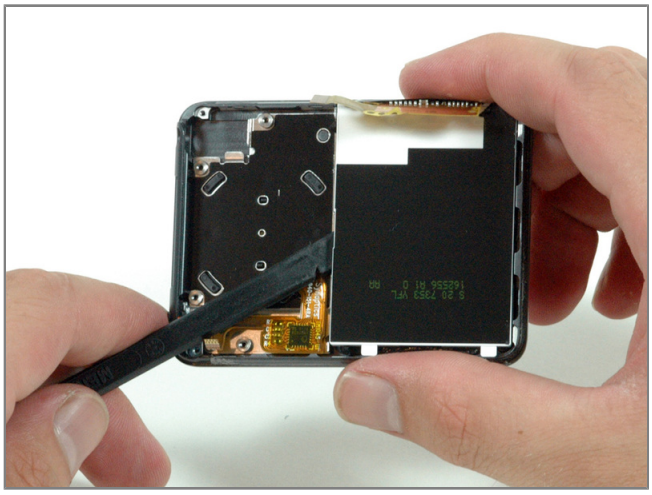
Step 6

- We've removed six Phillips screws fixing the logic board to the casing.
- We can now lift the logic board up, but it's still tethered by the visible click wheel cable and the hidden display cable.



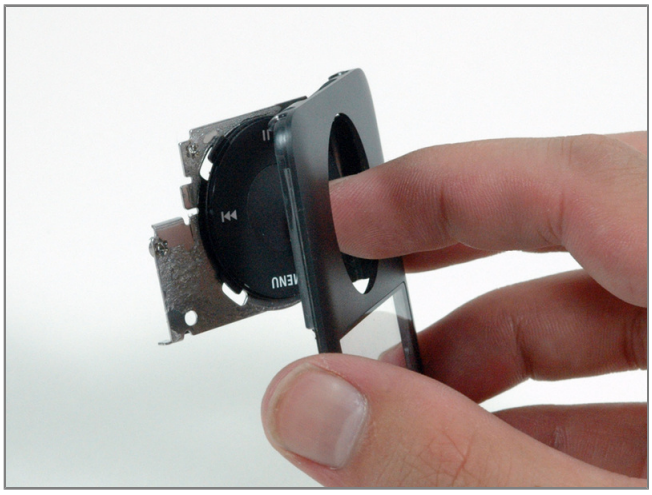
Step 7

- We've disconnected the click wheel cable and flipped the board over to disconnect the display cable.



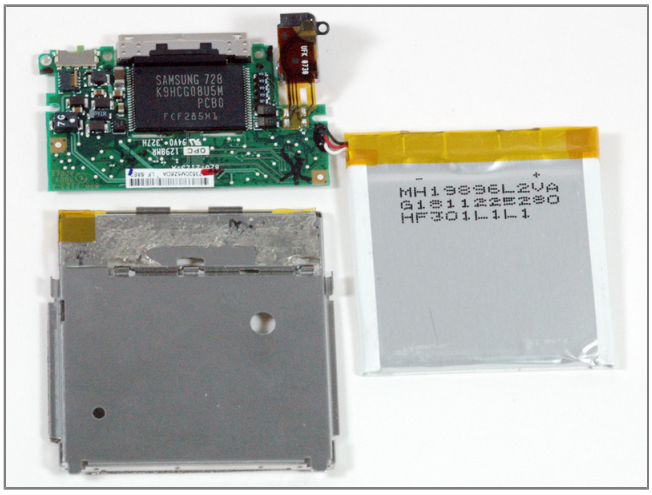
Step 8

- Now we use a spudger to pry up the display, which is held along the case's edge by an adhesive strip.
- The first generation Nano's display was attached in exactly the same way. If you're not careful when prying it up, you may crack it.



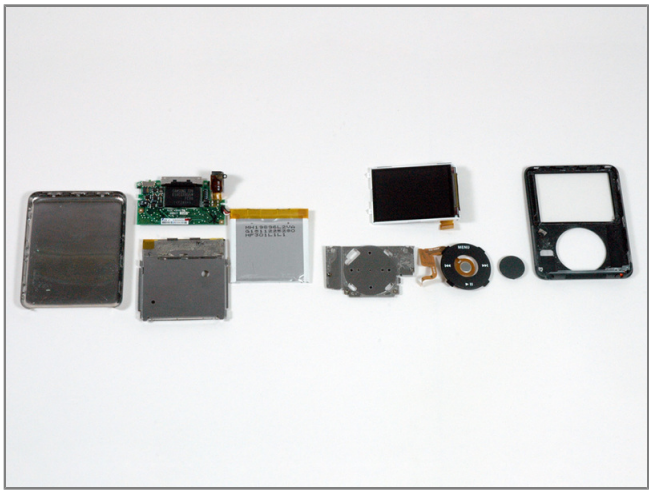
Step 9

- We're noticing a strong trend as we take apart this iPod: adhesive.
- The click wheel is held in place by nothing but a very strong adhesive, which is going to make replacing it difficult. You'll have to get it to stay in place as well as Apple has (i.e. very well).



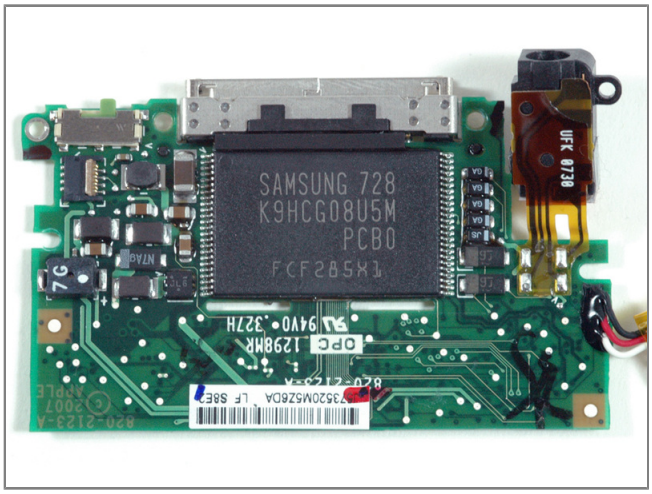
Step 10

- Here the battery is out of its metal housing, which is attached to the logic board by, that's right, adhesive.
- The battery is attached to the logic board by three through-hole solder points, as in the second generation Nano (sorry, no easy replacements).



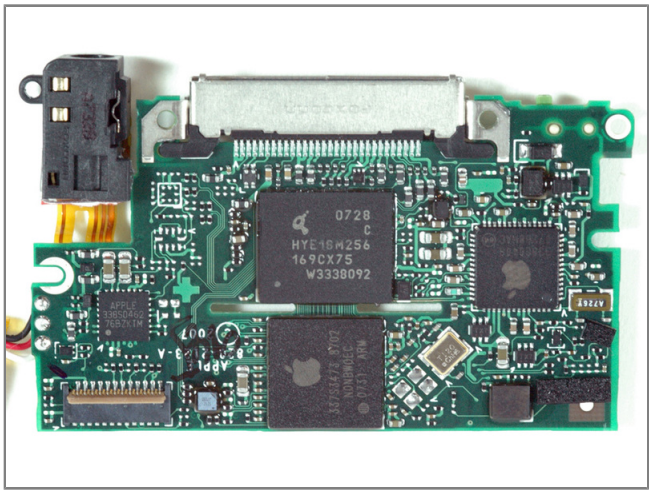
Step 11

- And here's everything together again, but apart.



Step 12

- A close-up of the logic board's top, which sports an eight gigabyte Samsung flash memory chip and headphone jack.
- The headphone jack is soldered to the logic board, as in the first generation Nano, but not in the second.



Step 13

- A close-up of the logic board's bottom.

Step 14

- And it still works! Now, having satisfied our curiosity, we can put some music on it.